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HOW 4-H CLUB WORK HELPED TO INCREASE DAIRY PROFITS

A radio talk by Francis Berry, 4-H Club boy, Kent County, Delaware, delivered in the 4-H Club program, National Farm and Home Hour, Saturday, January 6, 1934, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

Hello Delaware, and 4-H Club Folks Everywhere!

I have been in 4-H Club work six years. When I was about nine years old, I wanted to be a farmer; so I bought a Holstein calf, about a year old, for forty dollars; which took all the money I had.

A year or so later through the influence of several farm boys, school-mates and our Club Agent, Miss Helen Comstock, I joined the Woodside 4-H Dairy Club and bought a pure bred Jersey heifer calf, for which I paid fifty dollars, out of the proceeds of the sale of my Holstein heifer. I kept her for a year when she developed a crooked back which spoiled her for show, so I traded her for another calf, which has proved to be a very profitable animal to me.

I took her to the Kent and Sussex County Fair and in the 4-H Club class she took second prize and fourth prize in the open class which amounted to \$10.00.

When this heifer was two years and twenty days old, she freshened with a beautiful heifer calf. It was then that I started my milk route, selling to my neighbors at the edge of town at ten cents a quart. I gave one-half of the proceeds to my father for her feed, and I kept the other half for milking her and delivering the milk.

It was about this time that I completed a record of the amount of feed consumed by my cow that won me a set of milk scales given by a dealer from whom I bought my dairy feed. I found that this accurate account which I kept enabled me to tell which were my most profitable cows, and so I have continued to keep daily weight records of the milk from all of my cows.

My young cows have each given 30 pounds of milk daily from two milkings, and their test, according to the State Board of Health Milk Report was 5.5 per cent,

The second time my heifer freshened she had a bull calf which I have raised for a herd bull.

After I had sold milk from this heifer for seven months, I had saved \$95.00. I took this money and bought another Jersey heifer which soon freshened, having a bull calf which died. She has proved to be a real dairy cow, milking up to 30 pounds a day and for 365 days has produced 8,113 pounds of milk, milked twice daily.

Daddy has allowed me to raise all my heifer calves, so that I have a nice little herd of 7 animals. Most of them have been shown at fairs and have won prizes of which I am very proud.

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My annual income from milk sold now amounts to nearly \$600.00, not including the milk and cream that mother uses for our family of four. That income would probably look pretty good to any farm boy, but I tell you it looks better than that to me now, because last fall, my father lost the position he had held for several years, and since then my milk route has taken care of most of the family expenses, and will be able to keep us going until Daddy gets a steady job again.

The poultry on our farm has also been a source of regular income. My parents' first flock were White Plymouth Rocks purchased from the best and most reliable breeders they knew of. After I had helped them fit their birds for several poultry shows, I decided I would raise a flock of my own. So two years ago after they had brooded what they wanted, I raised about one hundred with hens. The next fall and winter I showed some of them against my father's birds and won several firsts and seconds. This success has been followed by similar winnings during the last two years at the Delaware State Poultry Show, the Kent and Sussex Fair and our local school community show.

My sister, Martha, thirteen years old, is also a 4-H Club member and raises pure bred Hampshire pigs. She has won sweepstakes in both the 4-H club and open classes at our State Fair. This year she won first place in the State on her meat animal project.

I think that every farm boy and girl should join some 4-H club, as it improves them, their parents and their home life.